



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913
PH (517) 373.1758 | FAX (517) 373.0938
www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/

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CONTACT: Lisa Posthumus
517-373-1758

Senator Cassis Right at Home during Committee Meeting

Biz Competitiveness Kicks-Off in Novi

Novi—State Senator Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, on Monday joined her fellow members of the Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness in her home community for its first public hearing. The newly formed committee, charged with exploring ways to attract and keep businesses in Michigan, met with citizens and business leaders at the Novi Expo Center.

“I was right at home for a couple of reasons,” Cassis said. “First we held the kick-off committee meeting in my hometown of Novi, and in addition, the speakers, almost in unison, repeated ‘no new taxes’ which reinforces what I am hearing statewide.”

The 10-member Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness was assigned by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming, and House Speaker Rick Johnson, R-LeRoy, to report back to the Legislature by Sept. 1, 2003 with a list of ways Michigan can be more competitive by studying the issues affecting Michigan's economy.

“We will take a look at issues such as tax policy, government regulations, technological needs, national trends, international trade, and job preparedness,” Cassis said of the committee’s focus. “Each of these is integral to keeping Michigan on the forefront of attracting and keeping good businesses.”

(more)

The committee will hold a total of eight public hearings across the state to receive input in building their report. Blair Bowman, president of the Novi Expo Center was one of several people from Novi who testified at the hearing.

“The establishment of this committee is very reassuring. It shows that our legislators are genuinely interested in receiving feedback from community businesses,” said Bowman.

“Hearing from community business leaders in Novi certainly underlines our city’s excellence in attracting businesses and creating jobs and opportunities for Michigan families,” Cassis said.

Sen. Cassis was no stranger to the crowd, nor was her leadership on the committee a surprise to them. She took time before the committee began to mingle with familiar faces that came to take part in the meeting.

“I am always impressed watching Nancy in action,” said Bowman. “Her record of sound tax policy measures makes her a natural leader in this important committee. I am glad that others in our community got to witness the process first-hand.”

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